

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed July 22, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,897,386 to Baxter et al. Applicant notes that the Examiner did not specifically state that claims 21-23 were rejected, but as the Examiner stated "With regard to Claims 21-23, Baxter et al. discloses each of the terminal receiving passages (where 48, 50 and 52 are located) having only one of the plurality of conductive terminals (48, 50, 52) mounted therein. See Figs. 1-7.", Applicant has responded to this Final Office Action as if the Examiner had also rejected claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,897,386 to Baxter et al. Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicant has made minor amendments to claims 1, 10, 18, 21 and 23 merely for clarification purposes as will be understood more clearly hereinbelow. Applicant contends that the amendments to these claims will not necessitate a new search or further consideration by the Examiner and, as such, are proper amendments to the claims at this time.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Baxter. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because Baxter does not recite each and every element set forth in independent claims 1, 10 and 18, Baxter does not anticipate the electrical connector recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 18 and, therefore, cannot anticipate dependent claims 2-5, 7-9, 11-16 and 19-23.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 18 have been amended for clarification purposes only to clarify that the "plurality of terminal-receiving passages" are provided within the "elongated

body portion” of the housing. Applicant states that these claims have always specified that the “plurality of terminal-receiving passages” were provided within the “elongated body portion” of the housing.

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 10 and 18 by stating in pertinent part, that Baxter discloses:

an electrical connector (10), comprising: a molded plastic housing (30) having an elongated body portion (middle part of 30 that connects 56 in the data section 48) defining a front mating face (Fig. 3) and a rear terminating face (Fig. 2) of the connector (10), . . . a plurality of terminal-receiving passages (where 48, 50 and 52 are located), which extend through the body portion (middle part of 30 that connects 56 in the data section 48) from the mating face (Fig. 3) to the terminating face (Fig. 2) . . . and a plurality of conductive terminals (48, 50, 52) mounted in the terminal-receiving passages (where 48, 50 and 52 are located, and enlarged end portions (outer end 56, end including sections 50, 52 and the three remaining 56) at opposite ends of the elongated body portion (middle part of 30 that connects 56 in the data section 48)

Thus, it appears that the Examiner is stating that the elongated body portion of Baxter is the “middle part of 30 that connects 56 in the data section 48”. The Examiner then states that the plurality of terminal-receiving passages of Baxter are “where 48, 50 and 52 are located”. Thus, the plurality of terminal-receiving passages of Baxter are not located solely in the data section 48 of Baxter, rather, one terminal-receiving passage is located in the data section 48 of Baxter, a second terminal-receiving passage is located in the section 50 of Baxter, and a third terminal-receiving passage is located in the section 52 of Baxter.

Conversely, independent claims 1, 10 and 18 do not call for such a structure. Independent claims 1, 10 and 18 require an elongated body portion which has a plurality of terminal-receiving passages in the elongated body portion. Thus, for Baxter to anticipate

independent claims 1, 10 and 18, Baxter would have to have a plurality of terminal-receiving passages in data section 48, rather than just the one terminal-receiving passage. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10 and 18 in order to clarify this point for the Examiner. As Applicant stated above, independent claim 1, 10 and 18 have always claimed this, but, in order to further clarify this, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10 and 18.

In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 10 and 18 and the remarks made in view thereof, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent claims 1, 10 and 18.

As Applicant contends that independent claim 1 is allowable and in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-5, 19 and 21 which depend from independent claim 1. Applicant notes that claim 21 has also been amended for clarification purposes only to state that each terminal-receiving passage is configured such that only a single conductive terminal can be mounted therein. As Baxter teaches a plurality of terminals 40 being positioned within the single passageway located in the data section 48, Baxter clearly does not teach or disclose the structure as defined in dependent claim 21.

As Applicant contends that independent claim 10 is allowable and in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 11-16, 20 and 22 which depend from independent claim 10.

As Applicant contends that independent claim 18 is allowable and in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 7-9 and 23 which depend from independent claim 18. Applicant notes that claim 23 has also been amended for clarification purposes only to state that each terminal-receiving passage is configured such that only a single conductive terminal can be mounted therein. As Baxter

teaches a plurality of terminals 40 being positioned within the single passageway located in the data section 48, Baxter clearly does not teach or disclose the structure as defined in dependent claim 23.

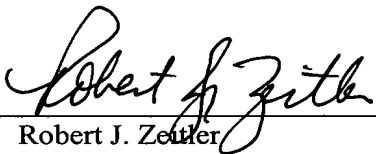
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in light of the above remarks and amendments, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation will facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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